

### **REMARKS**

An Office Action was mailed on March 12, 2003. Claims 1 – 22 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 – 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, and 20 are amended. No new matter is added.

### **CERTIFIED COPY OF PRIORITY DOCUMENT**

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' priority claim to Japanese Patent Application 11-041910, but noting that a certified copy had not yet been filed. In response, on information and belief, a certified copy of Japanese Patent Application 11-041910 was mailed to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office on March 27, 2003. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner acknowledge receipt of the certified copy of Japanese Patent Application 11-041910.

### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103**

Claims 1 – 5 and 8 – 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,710,591 to Bruno et al. Claims 6 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bruno in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,541,640 to Larson.

Applicants amend claims 1 – 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, and 20 to further clarify the nature of their invention, and respectfully traverse this rejection.

In independent claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, and 20, Applicants disclose a video telecommunication system including a plurality of video transmission apparatuses 11 each equipped with a camera 12, a video reception apparatus 14 with a monitor 15 and positioned in a single supervisory center, and a network 13 interconnecting the plurality of video transmission apparatuses and the video reception apparatus 14. A video information describing unit 16 for simultaneously sending a switch command for a camera in the plurality of video transmission apparatuses and character information in accordance with the switch command for display by the monitor of the video reception apparatus, where the character information describes the video information of the camera.

Bruno discloses a method and apparatus for recording and indexing an audio and multimedia conference. The apparatus of Bruno includes a plurality of workstations each including a monitor 14 and camera 20, a multipoint control unit (MCU) 26 for multipoint broadcasting of a video signal associated with a detected audio signal, and means for generating and recording a generated location signal together with the detected audio signal.

Unlike Applicants' claimed video telecommunication system, the system of Bruno is not configured to provide a plurality of video transmission apparatuses each having a camera for providing video information to a video reception apparatus placed in a single supervisory center. Moreover, unlike Applicants' claimed video telecommunication system, the system of Bruno does not include Applicants' video information describing unit 16 that simultaneously sends a switch command to a video

transmission apparatus and sends character information to a monitor in the single supervisory center to describe the video information of the switched camera. Although, for example, Bruno discloses that MCU 26 is capable of directing video and text information transmitted by a workstation 12, Bruno does not suggest or disclose that MCU 26 is able to simultaneously direct a switch command to a video transmission apparatus controlling a camera while sending character information descriptive of the switched camera to the monitor in the single supervisory center. This feature of Applicants claimed invention is also neither suggested nor disclosed by Larson.

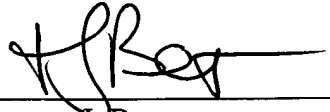
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that their invention as claimed in independent claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, and 20 is not made obvious by the combination of Bruno and Larson, and that claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, and 20 are therefore allowable. As claims 2, 3, 5 – 7, 10, 12 – 14, 16, 19, 21 and 22 each depend from one of allowable claims , 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, and 20, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 3, 5 – 7, 10, 12 – 14, 16, 19, 21 and 22 are allowable for at least this reason.

#### CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that 1 – 22, which include independent claims 1, 4, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, and 20, and the claims that depend therefrom, stand in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bean', written over a horizontal line.

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